

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 7, 11-12, 16-17, 21-22, and 25-29 have been amended. Claims 24 and 30-31 have been cancelled. Claims 32-34 have been added. Claims 2, 9, 14, and 19 were previously cancelled. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-13, 15-18, 20-23, 25-29, and 32-34 are pending and under consideration.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, at pages 2-5, claims 1, 3-8, 10-13, 15-18, and 20-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollon (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,164) in view of Yutaka et al. (JP 09026832).

Neither Hollon nor Yutaka et al., alone or in combination, discuss or suggest:

a plurality of buttons provided on the main body, adjacent the auxiliary display section, at positions such that the plurality of buttons are operable regardless of whether the lid is in the open position, the closed position, or an intermediate position between the open position and the closed position,

as recited in amended claim 1. In other words, the invention of claim 1 provides a plurality of buttons on the main body at positions that allow the buttons to be operable in each of an open position, a closed position, and any intermediate position. In contrast, Hollon merely discloses function keys 31-38 that are provided on the lid, such that when the lid is open the auxiliary display is not visible and the function keys are not operable. Yutaka et al. merely discloses an auxiliary display that is visible in an open and closed position and makes no mention of providing a plurality of buttons adjacent the auxiliary display that are operable in each of an open position, a closed position, and any intermediate position.

Since neither Hollon nor Yutaka et al., alone or in combination, discuss or suggest all of the features of claim 1, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-4, 10-13, and 27 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and include all the features of claim 1, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the references relied upon. Therefore, claims 3, 4, 10-13, 24, and 27 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

Neither Hollon nor Yutaka et al., alone or in combination discuss or suggest:

wherein the plurality of buttons are operable regardless of whether the lid is in the open position, the closed position, or an intermediate position between the open position and the closed position,

as recited in claim 5. Therefore, claim 5 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 15-18, 25, and 28 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 5 and include all the features of claim 5, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the references relied upon. Therefore, claims 6, 15-18, 25, and 28 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

Neither Hollon nor Yutaka et al., alone or in combination discuss or suggest:

wherein the plurality of buttons are operable regardless of whether the lid is in the open position, the closed position, or an intermediate position between the open position and the closed position,

as recited in claim 7. Therefore, claim 7 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 20-23, 26, and 29 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 7 and include all the features of claim 7, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the references relied upon. Therefore, claims 8, 20-23, 26, and 29 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 24 and 30-31 have been cancelled. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

II. New Claims

New dependent claims 32-34 have been added. As discussed above, none of the cited prior art discusses or suggests all of the features of independent claims 1 and 7. Claims 32-33 and 34 depend directly from claims 1 and 7, respectively, and include all the features of claims 1 and 7, respectively, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the cited prior art. Thus, it is submitted that claims 32-34 are in a condition suitable for allowance.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 12-17-07

By: 
Aaron C. Walker
Registration No. 59,921

1201 New York Ave, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501